



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Former U.S. Senate Employee Pleads Guilty to Mail Fraud for Illegal Receipt of \$259,000 in Federal Employees' Compensation Benefits

Washington, D.C. - Theodore Holmes, 51, of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, pleaded guilty today to Mail Fraud, Acting United States Attorney Channing D. Phillips and Robert L. Panella, Special Agent in Charge for the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Labor Racketeering & Fraud Investigations announced today. Mr. Holmes faces a likely Sentencing Guidelines range of between 21 to 27 months imprisonment when he is sentenced by the Honorable Henry H. Kennedy on November 13, 2009.

Holmes, who worked as a printing and reprographics specialist at the United States Senate, admitted during the plea proceeding that, on February 18, 1999, he filed a notice of an on-the-job knee injury. From February 16, 2000 to the present, the Senate provided the defendant with wage-loss compensation benefits for total disability as a result of his work-related condition. The Office of Workers' Compensation repeatedly informed the defendant that he was required to report any outside work activities or income, volunteer work, self-employment, or involvement in a business enterprise. The defendant repeatedly certified his denial of any such activities or income on forms CA-1032s, including on June 1, 2000; December 1, 2002; January 2, 2004; May 30, 2005; July 26, 2006; December 1, 2007; January 27, 2008; and August 31, 2008. The defendant completed and signed the CA-1032 forms at his home in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, and then mailed them through the United States Postal Service.

Despite the certifications, the defendant owned and conducted the day-to-day operations of several car wash businesses from February 16, 2000 to the present. The defendant derived income from the car wash businesses. The defendant also devoted a substantial amount of time to coaching a traveling flag football team, which is a member team of the United States Flag & Touch Football League. As part of the plea proceedings, the defendant admitted that he wrongfully received \$259,645.11 in wage-loss compensation benefits for total disability from the United States government.

In announcing the guilty plea, Acting United States Attorney Channing D. Phillips and Special Agent in Charge Robert L. Panella praised the excellent investigative work of Special Agent Edgardo Correa, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Inspector General, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations. They also commended Investigator Duncan Templeton, Paralegal Specialist Phaylyn Hunt, and Legal Assistant LaToya Davenport as well as Assistant United States Attorneys Stephanie Brooker and Opher Shweiki, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

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